0-10 (Rev. 5-6-66)

RICHARD C. SON

Supplementary Kennedy Slaying Report Urged

A majority of Americans, according to a recent Harris survey, reject the finding of the Warren Commission that the assassination of John F. Kennedy was solely the irrational act of one man, Lee Harvey Oswald.

This should not be considered surprising. The conspiracy theory runs strong in the American mentality. Any notorious crime produces thousands of people who by divination, extrasensory perception or supposedly superior reasoning come to conclusions contrary to the accepted or official findings of guilt. The Lindbergh kidnaping and the Alger Hiss case are prime expamples of the propensity of people generally, not alone Americans, to disbelieve official or judicial findings in notorious crimes.

A half-dozen books, none of them to be taken as authoritative, and most using the Warren Commission report as the primary source, have played upon the natural gullibility of the American people in this regard. The lower the educational level, according to the Harris survey, the higher the credibility for the theory that Kennedy was killed either by Oswald acting in conjunction with others, and/or by another person firing at the President from the front instead of from Oswald's position above and behind the presidential motorcade in Dallas.

In an the avalanche of tremendo, false reasoning and unjustified charges against the Warren Commission contained in the current literature, one point seems worth re-examination.

It now appears that, out of respect for the Kennedy family and the person of the late President, the Warren Commission at no time saw a complete set of pictures and x-rays taken in conjunction with the autopsy. The commission's findings that Kennedy was shot from behind, that one bullet entered and passed through his neck without striking bone or heavy tissue was based on other evidence considered more conclusive.

In the current issue of the public affairs magazine, U.S. News and World Report, Arlen Specter, assistant counsel of the Warren Commission, argues cogently that viewing the photographs and X-rays was not essential to the findings made by the commission on this point. Yet the conclusion cannot be escaped that Specter would have been better armed to answer questions on whether this bullet entered from the front or the rear if he had seen the photographic and X ray evidence.

Confusion on this point has been caused by a preliminary FBI report that apparently was erroneous and by the obliteration of the bullet wound in the front of the neck by incisions to give the unconscious President a chance to breathe.

U.S. News and World Report states flatly that Robert F. Kennedy, then attorney general, took charge of the photographs, as a matter of deference to the memory of the late President and because the commission concluded that the photographs and X rays were not indispensable.

"The photographs and X rays would, in the thinking of the commission, not have been crucial, because they would have served only to corroborate what the autopsy surgeons had testified to under oath, as opposed to adding any new facts for the commission."

In view of its 10-month study, its competent and careful personnel, its basic agreement with FBI conclusions, the heaviest weight must lie with the findings of the commission.

Yet, it might be possible at this stage to go a long way toward quieting the irrational doubts about the Kennedy assassination if the photographs and X rays were examined by the experts and membership of the former commission with the view of making a supplementary public report.

It would be imprudent in the extreme to open a new inquiry. Any new report should be confined strickly to the X rays and photographs. It is conceivable, of course, that such an examination might arouse new questions in the minds of the members of the former commission. But, in any case, if such an examination occurred, and it was found to confirm other findings, this much would be eliminated from the literature of those who play upon the doubts in the public's mind.

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Wick
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

What about this?

The Washington Post and Times Herald
The Washington Daily News
The Washington Evening Star
New York Daily News
New York Herald Tribune
New York Post
The New York Times
New York World Journal
New York World Journal Tribune
The Baltimore Sun
The Worker
The New Leader
The Wall Street Journal
The National Observer

REC I

62-109060-4235

ST-107

Date 12 NOV 3 1966

OCT 5 1966